



## **Annexation Report and Plan of Services Summary**

The Rocky Mount City Council approved the Annexation Report and Plan of Services on September 22, 2008. This summary provides some basic information about the plan and its content. For more information on the plan, please see the City's website at [www.rockymountnc.gov](http://www.rockymountnc.gov) or the Department of Planning and Development.

### **Introduction**

Beginning in 1959, North Carolina cities and towns have been able to annex contiguous property. The 1959 law sets forth the principle that "what is urban shall become municipal". Over the years, Rocky Mount has experienced a significant amount of development on the fringes of the City, just beyond the corporate limits. The City of Rocky Mount has consistently used annexation as one means of controlling development in adjacent areas and to ensure the quality of basic services for the city residents.

### **Annexation Report and Plan of Services**

The purpose of the Annexation Report and Plan of Services is to generally describe the areas to be annexed, show how these areas meet the annexation criteria, describe the major municipal services which will be extended to these areas and how these services will be financed and identify the impact on rural fire departments. Please see the full report.

### **General Criteria for City-Initiated Annexation**

To qualify for city-initiated annexation, the total area to be annexed must meet the following standards

- Be contiguous to the current corporate limits
- Have at least one eighth of the total boundary contiguous to the current corporate limits.
- Not be located within another incorporated municipality
- Part or all of the area must be developed for urban purposes.

All of the proposed annexation areas meet these requirements.

The annexation plan includes 5 study areas composed of 813 parcels and 1733.23 acres. The areas include an estimated population of 2205.75 and an assessed value of \$99,193,202.

### **Authority to Annex**

The State's principal annexation statute delegates the authority for a city to expand its borders by action of the city's elected officials; approval is needed from neither the voters of the city nor the voters of the area being annexed. The law does require that the annexed area be generally developed in urban uses and that the city provide basic services to the area within a reasonable time; but if an area is urban in character and if the city can provide those services, then the statute's policy is that the area ought to be part of the city.

### **Summary of Costs and Benefits to Property Owners**

Property owners in the proposed annexation area, upon annexation, would be responsible for paying the City property tax. The current City property tax rate is \$0.58 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation. Property valuations are determined by Edgecombe and Nash Counties. A \$5.00 per vehicle fee will be assessed to all eligible vehicle owners of the City of Rocky Mount. Residential customers will receive weekly solid waste services at a cost of \$10.25 per month (\$8.50 for garbage collection and \$1.75 for recycling collection) and stormwater services at \$3.75 per month.

Property owners requesting water and sewer service will also be responsible for plumbing permit and applicable connection fees where water distribution and sanitary sewer collection mains now exist. For those property owners requesting service where the water distribution and/or sanitary sewer collection mains are not already in place, the City of Rocky Mount will extend such mains pursuant to the terms and conditions as set forth in the City of Rocky Mount's Administrative Policy IX.1A Water Service Inside City and IX.1B Sewer Service Inside City.

Some major benefits to property owners in the annexation area include elimination of the various Edgecombe and Nash Counties Fire District Taxes ranging from \$0.05 to \$0.1075 per \$100.00 assessed valuation, elimination of individual street lighting charges, potential reduction of fire insurance rates for some business owners, and the following municipal services: (i) police protection from the City of Rocky Mount Police Department, (ii) fire protection and emergency medical services from the City of Rocky Mount Fire Department and other contracted departments, (iii) residential garbage and yard debris collection, (iv) stormwater and street maintenance services (v) street lighting, and (vi) access to the city's water and sewer system through standard utility connection and/or extension policies. Any City of Rocky Mount utility customer within the proposed annexation areas currently paying outside rates will have their rates adjusted to the standard applicable rates for Rocky Mount citizens upon the effective date of annexation. The City property tax is a deductible expense for purposes of State and Federal income taxes. Property owners in the annexation area will also have the opportunity to participate in the City government through a wide variety of boards and commissions.

### **Municipal Services Plan**

Except as noted in the Plan, the City of Rocky Mount will provide each major municipal service that the city performs within its corporate limits to the proposed annexation area on the effective date of annexation. Such services will be provided on substantially the same basis and in the same manner as such services are provided within the Rocky Mount corporate limits prior to annexation. Major services include police protection, fire protection, solid waste collection and disposal, street lighting, and street maintenance. The City will also provide for the extension of major trunk water mains and sewer outfall lines into the area to be annexed so that when such lines are constructed, property owners in the area to be annexed will be able to secure public water and sewer service according to the policies in effect within the City of Rocky Mount for extending water and sewer lines to individual lots or subdivisions. If the extension of major trunk water mains and sewer outfall lines is necessary, the City of Rocky Mount must complete the construction of such improvements within two years of the effective date of annexation.

The City's planning, budgeting, and implementation process will be used to finance and implement services to be provided to the area proposed for annexation. All City services will be made available to persons living within the City limits. The cost of providing the majority of general municipal services is anticipated to be paid from the City's General Fund, including ad valorem tax proceeds, sales and use tax, solid waste charges and other miscellaneous revenues. Stormwater charges will cover the cost of providing stormwater services to the annexation areas. Necessary water and sewer improvements will be financed through water and sewer revenues, including tap and line fees, water and sewer utility charges and debt.

## **Annexation Timetable**

Public Information Meeting November 24, 2008

Public Hearing December 8, 2008

Annexation Ordinance consideration December 18, 2008

Annexation Effective Date December 31, 2009

Once annexed, property owners/residents will receive all city services including

Police and fire protection,

Street maintenance,

Street lighting,

Garbage collection

Services will be provided in substantially the same basis and manner as such services are provided within the corporate limits.

Property owners/residents will be subject to the ordinances/regulations of the City of Rocky Mount.

## **Water and Sewer Service**

Within two years of the effective date of annexation, the City is required by state law to have major trunk water mains and sewer outfalls in close proximity to newly annexed areas so it can respond to petitions from residents for water and/or sewer service in accordance with the City's water and sewer system extension and assessment policies. These policies require:

- Petitions are considered on a block by block basis.
- To be successful, a petition must have 51% of the property frontage on the block in favor of the water or sewer line installation.
- The City Council will act upon the petition following a public hearing.
- If the City Council acts favorably on a petition and orders the work done, all property owners on the block will be assessed a share of the cost prorated on the basis of linear feet of frontage.
- Assessments may be paid over a five year term.
- Property owners are not required to connect to water or sewer unless ordered by their respective County Health Department.

For fire protection purposes, the City will install water mains in most newly annexed areas. After these water mains are installed, a property owner may connect to the main upon execution of an assessment agreement, which provides for payment of line fees and tap fees. An assessment agreement allows payment of line fees over a five year term.

Fees:

Water - \$25 per linear foot of road frontage +	\$1003 for ¾ inch water tap
Sewer - \$30 per linear foot of road frontage +	\$700 for 4 inch sewer tap

## Common Questions

- ⇒ **What services will I receive for my tax dollars?**
  - *New city residents will the same services currently received by existing residents including police and fire protection, street maintenance and lighting, code enforcement and vector control services, residential garbage collection and debris removal.*
- ⇒ **If I receive electric service from Edgecombe Martin, will I become a customer of the City of Rocky Mount Electric Utility? Will I have to pay the city rate for electricity?**
  - *Electric territories are set by the North Carolina Utilities Commission. The annexation will not affect these territories. You can remain a customer of Edgecombe Martin. Private utility rates are approved by the NC Utilities Commission.*
- ⇒ **Will I get to vote about whether or not I want to be annexed?**
  - *North Carolina law allows a city pursue an annexation without the vote of the property owner to be annexed or the vote of city residents. Residents may indicate their preferences about annexation to the City Council at the Public Hearing on December 8.*
- ⇒ **Why was my area included in the annexation?**
  - *Typically, staff looked for areas which were developed as commercial, industrial or governmental purposes and small (less than 3 acre) lots with houses. The General Statutes specifies how to determine if an area is developed for urban purposes. All eighteen areas meet these requirements.*
- ⇒ **Will the city determine the value of my home and property?**
  - *Edgecombe and Nash Counties will continue to determine the value of real and personal property.*
- ⇒ **I currently have water service from the city. Will my water bill be affected by annexation?**
  - *Any City of Rocky Mount utility customer within the proposed annexation areas currently paying outside rates will have their rates adjusted to the standard applicable rates for Rocky Mount citizens upon the effective date of annexation. Customers living outside the City are paying double the inside rate for water. These customers will see a significant reduction in their bill.*
- ⇒ **When will water and sewer service be available to my house?**
  - *Within two years of the effective date of annexation, the City is required to have major trunk water mains and sewer outfalls in close proximity to newly annexed areas so it can respond to petitions from residents for water and sewer service in accordance with the City's water and sewer system extension and assessment policies.*
- ⇒ **How do I get water and sewer to my house?**
  - *Petitions for service are considered on a block by block basis. To be successful, a petition must have 51% of the property frontage on the block in favor of the water and sewer line installation. The City Council will act upon the petition following a public hearing. If the City Council acts favorably on petition and orders the work done, all property owners on the block will be assessed a share of the cost prorated on the basis of linear feet of frontage. The assessments may be paid over a five year term.*
- ⇒ **If the line passes by my house, will I be required to connect to the water and sewer system?**
  - *Property owners will not be required to connect to water and sewer unless ordered by their respective County Health Department for public health reasons.*
- ⇒ **I have 5 dogs. Will the City allow me to keep all of these pets?**
  - *A city resident may have 2 cats and 2 dogs. The resident may have more provided they receive a permit from Animal Control. The permit will consider the noise from the pets to adjacent property and the enclosures (have to be clean and sanitary). Hoofed or cloven hoofed animals or other livestock are Ok with a permit. Dogs must be registered with the respective county tax office.*
- ⇒ **When will the annexation take effect?**
  - *The annexation will be effective on December 31, 2009.*